

**OBTAINING A CCW IN ORANGE COUNTY:  
A DETAILED OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

In 2014, a 3-judge panel for the Ninth Circuit issued a [landmark ruling](#) that held a restrictive “good cause” requirement for the issuance of a CCW in California violates the Second Amendment. That case, [Peruta v. County of San Diego](#), has since been reheard by an 11-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit, who this June [issued a ruling](#) overturning the 3-judge panel decision and ultimately held that the Second Amendment does not protect a right to carry a concealed firearm in public.

Prior to the Ninth Circuit rehearing the *Peruta* 3-judge panel opinion, the Orange County Sheriff’s Department (“OCSD”) began accepting CCW applications that included “self-defense or personal safety” as satisfying OCSD’s “good cause” policy. But after the case was ordered to be reheard, OCSD reverted back to their original policy, no longer accepting “self-defense or personal safety” as a satisfactory reason in and of itself to be issued a CCW.

The change in OCSD’s policy left many individuals wondering if their CCWs would soon be revoked. But thanks directly to [NRA and CRPA efforts](#), Sheriff Hutchens [responded](#) by clarifying that no one would have their CCW revoked, and that of the pending 1,700 applications with “good cause” statements already approved by OCSD, none would be denied or required to augment their “good cause” statements.

Today, the number of active CCWs in Orange County has exploded to over [9,300](#), with many more applications still pending. And despite the ever increasing number, we are unaware of a single instance in which an OCSD CCW holder has illegally used their firearm. In fact, the exact opposite is true.

In October 2015, La Palma resident Steven Pappas heroically [intervened to defend a young boy being beaten by two adult men armed with a baseball bat](#). Mr. Pappas has just

witnessed the assailants hit the boy in the head, so he drew his CCW firearm and commanded the men to stop. Seeing that Mr. Pappas was armed, the men ceased their attack and fled. For his actions, Mr. Pappas was honored by the City of Bellflower with the [BRAVO Award for Valor](#).



*Steven Pappas (right) training with his firearm during an OCSD approved CCW Course*

With stories like these, and the fact that not a single OCSD CCW holder has illegally used their firearm, it should come as no surprise that Sheriff Hutchens is generally issuing CCWs to those who apply. Although the more restrictive “good cause” policy is still in place, if an applicant can articulate a reason other than simple “self-defense or personal safety,” they should have no issue in obtaining a CCW from OCSD.

To help individuals understand the OCSD CCW application process, we have prepared the following step-by-step guide and encourage all of our members who reside or work in Orange County to apply.

### **Step 1: Complete the Initial Application**

Regardless of what county you may live in, all individuals applying for a CCW in California must complete a “Standard Initial and Renewal Application” form from the California Department of Justice (“DOJ”), Bureau of Firearms. OCSD makes blank copies of this form available [through their website](#).

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BOF 4012 (Rev. 11/2012)



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
BUREAU OF FIREARMS  
**STANDARD INITIAL AND RENEWAL APPLICATION  
FOR LICENSE TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON**

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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**Authority**

California Penal Code sections 26150 and 26155 provide that a sheriff of a county or the chief or other head of a municipal police department of any city or city and county may issue a license to carry a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person (CCW license). Penal Code section 26175 requires the Attorney General to prescribe a statewide standard application form for a CCW license.

**Who May be Issued a License**

The licensing authority specified in Penal Code sections 26150 and 26155 (a sheriff or the chief or other head of a municipal police department) may issue a license to persons who are of good moral character, who have completed a course of training, and where good cause exists for issuance of the CCW license. All applicants for a CCW license will be fingerprinted.

*DOJ's Uniform CCW Application*

Filling out the application itself is fairly straightforward, and should take no more than 15-20 minutes. But it is important to remember to be completely truthful in your responses. This includes listing any and all traffic citations and arrests, regardless of whether or not charges were dropped or ever filed. Most all traffic citations and police contacts in and of themselves do not disqualify you from obtaining a CCW, but hiding or concealing them can and will result in a denial. If you are having difficulty remembering the details of any traffic citation, you can request a copy of your driving record by paying a \$2.00 fee to the California Department of Motor Vehicles [online](#).

On page 10 of the application, space is provided for applicants to give the “[d]etails of [r]eason” for applying for a CCW. This section is where applicants must describe their “good cause” for the issuance of a CCW. OCSD has stated in its [posted policy](#) that criteria establishing “good cause” include:

- Specific evidence that there has or is likely to be an attempt on the part of a second party to do great bodily harm to the applicant;
- The nature of the applicant’s business is such that they are exposed to a high degree of risk and/or criminal attack more so than the general population;
- Transporting large sums of money or other valuables where alternative protective measures or security cannot be employed;
- Documented threats to the personal safety of the applicant, their family, or employees; or,
- Threats by virtue of profession, business, or status.

If the CCW license is desired for self-protection, the protection of others, or for the protection of large sums of money or valuable property, you are required to explain and provide good cause for issuance of the license. For example, has your life or property been threatened or jeopardized? Explain incidents and include dates, times, locations, and names of police agencies to which these incidents were reported.

Details of Reason for Applicant Desiring a CCW license. Use additional pages if necessary.

*“Good Cause” Section on Page 10 of the Uniform CCW Application*

The above examples are not the only ways to satisfy OCSD’s “good cause” policy and “are not intended to be all-inclusive.” Whatever the reason, applicants must establish a need or purpose for the issuance of a CCW beyond that of the general public. And if you are able to do so, OCSD will almost certainly accept that reason as satisfying the “good cause” requirement.

For example, recent threats of terrorist attacks and other acts of violence against members of the general public are unlikely satisfy the Sheriff’s “good cause” requirement. But statements such as “I often travel to remote areas of California where law enforcement resources would be unable to adequately respond in a timely manner in case of an emergency,” coupled with a professional business license or other facts, may very well establish “good cause.”

To put this in perspective, only about 4% of applicants are denied, most of which result from the applicant failing to complete the process or being disqualified for some reason other than insufficient “good cause.” Should you have any questions about your “good cause”

statement, you can email NRA Master Training Counselor TJ Johnston at [tj@allsafedefense.com](mailto:tj@allsafedefense.com).

The only portions of the application that should remain blank at this stage are the signature sections on page 8 and 11, as OCSD has stated that these signatures must be witnessed by an investigator.

### **Step 2: Submitting the Application**

After you have completed the initial application, you should assemble any required additional documentation and submit them along with the application to OCSD to schedule an initial appointment. At a minimum, all applicants will need a completed application form, a color copy of their driver's license or identification card, and sufficient proof of residency in Orange County.

Any additional documentation, such as copies of professional licenses or documents supporting an applicant's "good cause" statement should also be included. To assist applicants with assembling the required documentation, OCSD has posted a [CCW Document Checklist](#) for new applicants on their website.

Once you have assembled all of the required documents, we recommend that you scan and save them as a PDF to your computer. This way, you can then email the entire package to the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Completed applications should be emailed to [ccwpermits@ocsd.org](mailto:ccwpermits@ocsd.org). You can also call the OCSD CCW Unit at (714) 834-7229 to schedule an appointment over the phone, or use the OCSD's [online appointment request form](#).

Due to the large number of applicants, there is approximately a 4 to 5 month wait between requesting and participating in an initial interview with an investigator. As OCSD

continues to work through the backlog, it is possible that your initial interview may be moved to an earlier date. As a result, be sure to provide OCSD with accurate contact information to receive any updates about your scheduled appointment.

### **Step 3: The Initial Interview**

The initial interview is conducted at the OCSD CCW Unit, located at [320 N. Flower Street, Santa Ana, CA 92703](#). The CCW Unit itself is on the 4th floor of the OCSD Crime Lab building, which is the northwest building of the twin office buildings located at the corner of N. Flower Street and W. Santa Ana Blvd. Parking is generally available along W. 3rd Street and N. Olive Street on the south side of the buildings.



*320 N. Flower Street Building (right)*

Applicants should bring the original copy of their application, any supporting documents, and a check or money order of \$20 for the initial application processing fee. Do **NOT** bring any firearms, weapons, bags, briefcases, purses, or guests with you.

Try to arrive at least 15 minutes before your interview is scheduled to take place. Once you arrive and enter the building, you will be greeted by a Sheriff's Deputy who will ask you to sign in and provide you with a visitor badge. The Deputy will then instruct you to proceed to the elevator and go to the 4th floor.

Upon exiting the elevator, you should see a large desk in the main lobby of the CCW unit. Let the staff know you are here for your appointment. While waiting for your interview, the staff will have you stand in front of a window for a picture which will be used for your CCW license, and will process your initial application fee. The staff will then call your name to bring you back for your interview.

The interviewer is usually a Sheriff's Deputy. During the interview, they will go over your application and discuss your "good cause" statement. Applicants should understand that the interviewer does not approve or deny an applicant's "good cause" statement. But if they believe the provided statement is insufficient, they will inform the applicant may ask for additional information.

Some applicants may be required to undergo a psychological examination at some point after the interview. The fee for the exam is \$150. Although it is unlikely that an applicant will be required to undergo this test, applicants that have a criminal history, a propensity toward violence, or a history of poor decisions may be referred to OCSD's psychologist. Additionally, if an applicant was treated for mental illness as a teenager, OCSD will automatically refer the applicant to the psychologist.

Applicants should also be aware that at some point after the interview OCSD will conduct a “residency” check by sending an OCSD Deputy to your residence. The Deputy will likely knock on your door (and your neighbor’s) to confirm the residence address provided on the application is actually the applicant’s residence. From what we understand, the Deputy will not discuss the nature of the purpose of the check (i.e., that the applicant is seeking a CCW). Instead, the Deputy will simply say the check is for the purposes of a background check.

### Step 4: Live Scan Fingerprinting

OCSD will notify applicants by email if their “good cause” statement has been approved or denied. If approved, you will be directed to proceed with Live Scan fingerprinting and mandatory firearms training. We recommend that you complete the Live Scan first, as the associated background check is currently causing the most significant delay in applicants obtaining their CCW license.

Usually, the email you receive approving your “good cause” will also include a partially completed “Request for Live Scan Service” form, also available on OCSD’s [website](#).



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BCII 8016  
(orig. 4/01; rev6/09)

### REQUEST FOR LIVE SCAN SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Applicant Submission**

**CA0300000**

ORI (Code assigned by DOJ)

**CCW / STANDARD 2 YEAR / INITIAL –**

Type of License/Certificate/Permit OR Working Title (Maximum 30 characters – If assigned by DOJ, use exact title assigned)

Contributing Agency Information

**ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT**

Agency Authorized to Reserve Criminal Record Information

**P.O. Box 449**

Street Address or P.O. Box

**Santa Ana**

City

**CA**

State

**92702**

ZIP Code

**STANDARD CCW**

Authorized Applicant Type

**04490**

Mail Code (five-digit code assigned by DOJ)

**CCW Unit**

Contact Name (mandatory for all school submissions)

**(714) 834-7229**

Contact Phone Number

Applicant Information:

[Redacted Applicant Information]

“Request for Live Scan” Form

The Live Scan process itself is generally straightforward. A Live Scan “operator” will check the applicant’s identification, input the applicant’s personal descriptor information, capture the applicant’s fingerprints electronically, and then transmit the data to DOJ. Once the data is received by DOJ, the fingerprint images are used to automatically search against all other fingerprint images in DOJ’s database for the purposes of conducting a background check. In the case of CCW applicants, the fingerprint images are also forwarded to the FBI to perform a fingerprint-based search of records in the national criminal history database.

According to DOJ’s [website](#), every CCW applicant is required to pay a \$32 State CORI Fee, a \$17 Federal CORI Fee, and a \$38 Firearms Eligibility fee, for a total of \$87. However, OCSD’s posted [Fee Schedule](#) indicates that the total amount for this process is actually \$93. The discrepancy is likely a result of inaccurate and out of date information posted by DOJ. As a result, expect to pay a total of \$93 for the Live Scan fingerprint report.

To complete the Live Scan, you can use OCSD’s own Livescan unit by calling (714) 834-6460. Alternatively, you can use any of the [DOJ Certified Live Scan providers](#). A complete list of all providers located in Orange County can be viewed online [here](#).

Be aware that in addition to the above fees, the Live Scan operator will charge a “rolling fee” for administering the Live Scan itself. Currently, OCSD and the Costa Mesa Police Department are the cheapest at \$10, but do not accept credit cards. Other providers charge anywhere up to \$35. The amount charged by each provider is listed on DOJ’s website.

### **Step 5: Mandatory Firearm Training**

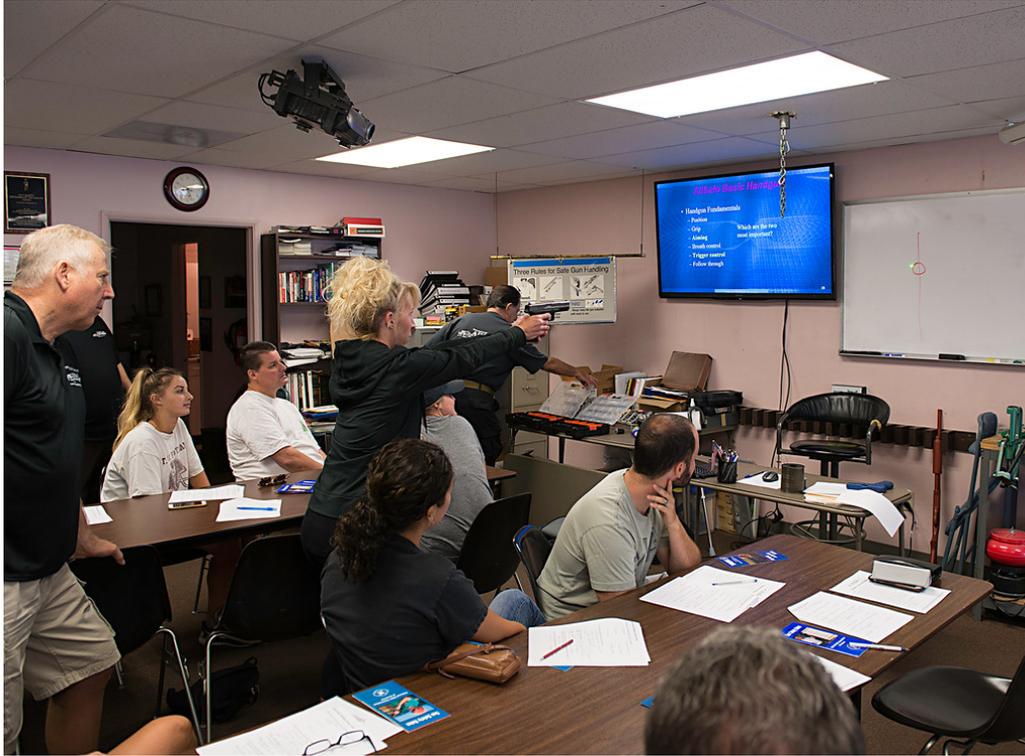
After you have completed the Live Scan fingerprinting, the next step is to participate in a OCSD certified 16-hour firearms course intended for new CCW applicants. The course must be

one offered by an OCSD authorized training provider. One such provider is NRA Certified Master Training Counselor TJ Johnston of [AllSafe Defense Systems](#).

Over the past three decades, TJ has offered and continues to offer both armed and unarmed self-defense classes, specializing in providing safe, fun, and effective training in the use of firearms to members of the general public. As an NRA Master Training Counselor, TJ has trained over a thousand highly experienced shooters and members of the law enforcement community aspiring to become NRA certified firearm instructors. He has also been a certified CCW instructor for Orange County for over 10 years, and of the [over 9,300 current CCW holders](#), he has certified over 650 individuals who have taken his course.

TJ encourages everyone to obtain a CCW permit. He advocates for a “shall-issue” system, meaning that if OCSD cannot find a specific reason to disqualify an applicant, they should issue a permit regardless of the applicant’s reason for seeking one.

TJ’s CCW course is modeled on the [NRA Personal Protection Outside the Home](#) course, which he himself helped to develop. The course consists of both classroom and live-fire portions designed to teach students the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential for avoiding dangerous confrontations and for the safe, effective, and responsible use of a concealed pistol for self-defense outside the home. TJ’s course has also been vetted by legal and law enforcement professionals across the nation, and offers a comprehensive, aggressive, and in-depth experience.



*NRA Master Training Counselor (left) working with a student (center) during an AllSafe Basic Pistol class using a SIRT laser training pistol*

“This is an advanced handgun class, not for beginners,” says TJ. “It is important that you know your firearm, and that you can load, unload, and clear any stoppages without conscious thought. Your fundamentals should be well-established before coming for the stress-fire training that my class provides.”

As an advanced class, TJ’s students are exposed to a variety of topics and drills. “I’ve been told by my students that they appreciate the massive amount of information and real world applications my course provides. My students recognize that this is not a marksmanship course, but an action course that provides them with the opportunity to participate in drills that no range would normally allow.”



*NRA Master Training Counselor TJ Johnston (left), NRA certified instructor Patrick Lovette (right), working with a student during Allsafe's OCSD Approved CCW Course*

Another important aspect of TJ's class is that it provides students with a comprehensive overview of the legal requirements for using a firearm in self-defense. [Matt Cubeiro](#), an attorney with [Michel & Associates, P.C.](#) and NRA certified firearms instructor, regularly assists TJ in providing students with a presentation on the legal ramifications of using a firearm in defense of one's life.

“It's absolutely critical that CCW holders learn as much as they can about the law because as a CCW holder, you are held to a very high standard should you ever have to justify your actions in court,” says Matt. “But the ultimate goal is for students to understand how to legally and morally respond to a potentially dangerous situation in such a manner that leaves no room for law enforcement or the media to question their actions to begin with.”

You can learn more about TJ's CCW class by watching this [video](#), or by visiting his website at [www.allsafedefense.com](http://www.allsafedefense.com). You can also view a complete list of other OCSD authorized training providers [here](#).

Once you have completed your training, you should be provided with a certificate that you must submit to the OCSD. You can scan and email the certification to the Sheriff's Deputy tasked with processing your application, or to the general [ccwpermits@ocsd.org](mailto:ccwpermits@ocsd.org) email.

### **Step 6: Final Appointment and License Pickup**

After OCSD has received the Live Scan background check report from DOJ, and after you have completed your required training and forwarded your certification for confirmation, you should receive an email indicating that you have either been finally approved or denied a license. If you have been denied, California law requires OCSD to notify you of the reason for the denial.

If you have been approved, congratulations! You have met all of the requirements necessary for obtaining a CCW license. OCSD will notify you of when pick up your CCW. The pickup location is the same location where you had your initial interview, the OCSD CCW Unit, located at [320 N. Flower Street, Santa Ana, CA 92703](#). Remember to not bring any firearms, weapons, bags, briefcases, purses, or guests with you.

Before picking up your license, you will be required to pay all remaining processing fees (\$80), and sign and acknowledge OCSD's [CCW License Terms](#). After doing so, you will be issued your license, which is valid for two years. When the time comes to renew your license, remember that OCSD is strongly encouraging renewal applicants to begin the process at least 3 months prior to the expiration of the license. Visit OCSD's [renewal application page](#) for more information regarding OCSD's CCW renewal process.

### **TAKEAWAYS**

There is no question that the entire CCW application process in Orange County is a long and arduous process. DOJ is reluctantly processing CCW Live Scan background checks, and OCSD has no control over this part of the process. But with a little patience and hard work, you should have no difficulty in obtaining a CCW from Orange County.

Even with the delays, it is more important than ever to encourage individuals to apply for a CCW in orange county. Sheriff Hutchens has recognized that CCW holders are among the most law abiding individuals in the country, and by allowing those who seek a CCW to be issued one, not only does she make Orange County a safe place, but she helps demonstrate why every county in California, and the nation for that matter, should utilize a “shall-issue” CCW system.

In the meantime, the NRA and the CRPA supported *Peruta* case, which could bring shall-issue to California, is now Supreme Court bound. A petition for review by the Supreme Court is expected to be filed in January 2017. NRA and CRPA are also busy preparing a full scale legal battle against Proposition 63 and the “Gunmageddon” anti-gun bills signed in July. Stay informed on all of these efforts by [signing up for email alerts](#) from CRPA.

### **LOCAL ORDINANCE PROJECT**

This guide was made possible by NRA and CRPA’s Local Ordinance Project (“LOP”), a joint-effort to actively monitor local government proposals that threaten the right to keep and bear arms. NRA/CRPA LOP has been in place for over 20 years. LOP’s coalition partners include local gun rights organizations, individual activists, businesses, local government officials, and law enforcement professionals.

NRA/CRPA LOP efforts typically include the preparation of policy and legal opposition letters, pre-litigation demand letters, coordination of grassroots activists, public information

campaigns, and appearances at city council or board of supervisor meetings. In many instances, these efforts have convinced local governments to vote down proposals or pull them from consideration. LOP also serves as the foundation for NRA and CRPA litigation efforts against local jurisdictions that enact anti-gun legislation.

You can support LOP and our other pro-Second Amendment efforts in California by donating to the [California Rifle & Pistol Association Foundation](#) (CRPAF). CRPAF is a 501(c)(3), so [contributions](#) to CRPAF are tax-deductible. Or donate to [NRA Legal Action Project](#). All donations will be spent to specifically benefit California gun owners.